Sandstones of Van Cortlandtville Cemetery
Cortlandt Manor, NY

Following is a list of the sandstones (also called redstones or brownstones) and slate (two only) in the Old Van Cortlandtville Cemetery on the corner of Oregon Road and Locust Avenue in Cortlandt Manor (formerly called Peekskill), Westchester County, NY. This cemetery is next to the Little Red School House, adjoins Hillside Cemetery and surrounds Old St. Peter's Church. The Cemetery is often referred to as Old St. Peter's Church Yard.

According to Scharf, "In 1750, Andrew Johnson ..., a son-in-law of Stephanus Van Cortlandt, for the sum of five pounds, conveyed to Caleb Hall, Joseph Travis, and Pelatiah Hawes, six acres of land lying at a place called Peekskill, on the north side of the Crompond road, to be used as a site for a schoolhouse, burying ground, and meeting-house or houses for the religious (under the protection of his Majesty) such as adherents of the Church of England, the Presbyterian, Independents, Baptists, or Congregationalists, etc., but for no other purpose." (page 385, Vol. 2, *History of Westchester, NY*)

According to *Historic Van Cortlandtville* (page 23), "Messrs. Travis and Haws gave their four acres to the Episcopalians, Hall turned over his two acres to the Baptists who built a church on the south section of the plot in 1772."

Former Peekskill historian, Carlton B. Scofield, tells us "Caleb Hall was a Baptist and a pioneer ... at the end he was laid to rest in 1791 in a place close beside the Van Cortlandtville Baptist Church built in 1772. The church was built on land given to the Baptists by Caleb Hall." (page 10*, History Of The First Baptist Church*)

The **Jacobs** and **Voct** stones are in the same area as the other sandstones, but are not considered part of the Van Cortlandtville Cemetery (they are said to be in Hillside Cemetery). According to Scharf, (page 388, Vol. 2), "...when the grounds surrounding the old Episcopal Church (St. Peter's) became filled, lots were bought and interments made in the private property adjoining ...." In 1864 what is now Hillside Cemetery was purchased, including those graves that were made on private ground. I have included these three stones in this listing as they are in the same area as the other sandstones.

The **Hall** gravestones are not near any of the other sandstones in the Van Cortlandtville Cemetery, but they are directly in back of the Little Red School House, once the site of the early Baptist Church.

The first recorded gravestone on the six acre plot seems to have been Stephen Travis who died in 1751. St. Peter's Episcopal Church was started in 1766 and dedicated in 1767, and the Baptist Church was built on the plot about 1772.

Many of these old sandstones are damaged and down. Sandstones deteriorate from internal stresses. Stones that are 200 years old can appear perfect one day and the next day the entire face

of the stone can "let go" and the face of the stone falls away and is lost forever. Please try to visit this historic cemetery and view these stones yourself before it is too late.

For more information on sandstones see the book *"The Old Dutch Burying Ground of Sleepy Hollow"* which is available in most Westchester County Genealogical and Historical Societies, as well as through some used booksellers.

Surname	**Given Name**	**Date of Death**	**Age at Death**	**Miscellaneous, Epitaphs, Etc.** *Comments in Italics*
BANKER	Jean	Mar 6 1806	6days	Daughter of John & Mary Banker
BANKER	Mary	Jul 7 1809	7y7m6d	Daughter of John & Mary Banker
BARRAT	Elizabeth	Jun 15 1788		Born Sep 15 1729, wife of John Barrat *(stone down)*
BARRET	John	Jul 31 1802	82y	An honest man's the noblest work of God.
BASHFORD	Byaly	Jun 22 1794	84y	
BELL	Elizabeth	Jul 27 1816	44y1m28d	Wife of Frederick Bell
BELL	Frederick	Mar 13 1811		Born Sep 25 1769
BIRDSALL	Daniel	Oct 29 1800	65y9m13d	
BIRDSALL	Eunice	Feb 9 1792	59y10m25d	Wife of Daniel Willm Birdsall When spring appears when violets blow & shed a rich per(fume) How soon the fragrance breaths its last How short livd is the bloom Fresh is the mo(rning) (s)ummer rose Hangs withered ere on.... We scarce enjoy the balmy gift But mourn the pleasure gone. *(stone falling apart)*
BIRDSALL	Hannah	Nov 3 1815	3y3m11d	Born Jul 23 1812 Dau. Of Daniel Wm & Phoebe Birdsall Beneath a sleeping infant lies To earth her body's lent More glorious she'll here after rise Tho' not more innocent
BIRDSALL	Hannah	Apr 4 18(17)	75y4m27d	Wife of (Dan)iel B(irdsal) *(stone crumbling almost gone)*
BIRDSALL	Hephsa	May 9 1795	26y3m3d	Wife of Daniel William Birdsall O happy dead in peace that sleep Tho' o'er your mouldring dust we weep

				A faithful Saviour soon will come That dust to ransom from the tomb.
BURD	Ann	Sep 10 1813	59y5m26d	Wife of Joseph Burd
CAMMET	Joseph	Nov 22 1799	11y5m	Son of Thomas & Billacha Cammet Dear friends who live to mourn & weep Behold the grave where I sleep Prepare for death for you must die *(last line underground)*
CONKLIN	John	Jan 24 1789	60y	Born Oct 9 1729 As I am now you soon Shall be Proper *(sic)* for death and Follow me.
DRAKE	Bilbeck	May 2 1771	71y	Wife of Capt. John Drake
DRAKE	Elizabeth	Jan 7 1772	21y	Wife of Isaac Drake Swift was her flight Short was her Road She closd her eyes And saw her God. *(this stone is slate not sandstone)*
DRAKE	Jerimiah	May 6 (?) 1784	58y	Born 1726 *(stone damaged)*
DRAKE	Jesper	Feb 26 1771	19y	*(this stone is slate not sandstone)*
DRAKE	Mary	May 21 1779	32y5m17d	Wife of Samuel Drake
DRAKE	Rebekah	May 13 1772	43y1m28d	Here Lyes the Body of Rebekah Drake the Wife of Samuel Drake Esqr Born Mar 15 Day 1729 Married May the 14 Day 1753 And Departed this Life May the 13 Day 1772 Aged 43 Years 1 Month and 28 Days Behold and see as you pass by As you are now so once was I *(this line is unreadable)* Prepare for death and follow me. *(this stone cracked in half in 1997)*
DRAKE	Ruth	May 19 1786	68y	Wife of William Drake Esq.
DRAKE	Samuell	Jan 13 1774	75y	*(Samuell is spelled with two l's)*
DRAKE	William Esq.	Apr 29 1802	80y	
DUSENBERRY	Denton	Nov 6 1802	62y3m	

DUSENBERRY	Elizabeth	Feb 26 1794	1y10m26d	Daughter of Denton & Sarah Dusenberry Sleep lovely babe and take thy peaceful rest God call'd thee early because he thought it best.
FERRIS	John			Son of Jonathan & Rachel Born Jun 7.... *(stone sunk)*
FERRIS	Jonathan			*(face of stone destroyed)*
FERRIS	Rachel	May 6 1779	43y9m14d	Consort of Jonathan Ferris
HAIGHT	Samuel	Jun 30 1814	68y8m27d	While on the earth I did remain My later days were grief and pain Till Christ my God has thought it best To take me to a place of rest
HALL	Anna	Mar 25 1793	9y3m33d	Daughter of Caleb & Margarell Hall*(spelled with two l's not two t's) (see intro)*
HALL	Caleb	Oct 1 (?) 1791	91y	*(see intro)*
HALL	Jane	Mar 6 1778	78y	Wife of Caleb Hall *(see intro)*
HALL	Margeret	Apr 2 1794	47y24d	Wife of Caleb Hall As all must die we certain know Let each one ready be also *(see intro)*
HALL	Mary	Jan 26 1795	19y	Daughter of Dan & Mary Hall *(see introduction above)*
HAWES	Judith	Sep 22 1803	87y	
HAWES	Pelatiah	Aug 27 1791	78y	*(stone says "Pelatiah Hawes Esqr.")*
HELIKER	Martin	Aug 2 1794	82y	
HOPPER	James	Aug 11 1796	24y	
JACOBS	Rebecca	Jan 3 1814	67y11d	*(stone sunk & cracked) This stone is actually in Hillside (see above intro)*
JACOBS	Samuel	Dec 31 1827	78y2m20d	*(see above intro) in Hillside.*
JONES	John	Feb 9 1808	76y1m18d	
JONES	Rachel	Oct 18 1807	76y8m2d	Wife of John Jones
JONES	Sarah	Dec 31 1770	34y	Wife of John Jones
KING	Anthony	Oct 19 1792	9m12d	Son of Henry & Susanna King

				Death oft destroys The parents joys
LASCELS*	Edward*	Dec 5 17??	67y	** Name is not on stone, only death date and age. Stone is broke and sunk.*
LICKLY	John	Nov 17 1807	73y	When you come here my grave to view As you are now I once was too But sudden death has brought me here To follow me my friends prepare. *(stone cracked)*
LICKLY	William	Oct 1 1805	31y9m12d	Born Dec 18 1773
MEEKS	Michael	Jan 8 1809	43y6m 13d	*(stone crumbling)*
NELSON	Joseph	Jul 6 1811	32y8m28d	Son of John & Sarah Nelson
OWEN	Jonathen	Jan 16 1785		Born Jul 17 1737
PAULDING	Esther	Mar 6 1804	35y11m5d	Just when the strings of life were broke I saw my glass was run Peace to my soul my Jesus spoke And heavenly joy begun. One babe before me took her flight On her my Jesus smild And now I've pass'd deaths gloomy night And eight more left behind.
PAULDING	JOHN	Feb 18 1818	60y	*(Revolutionary War Hero. He now rests under the large monument where his body was moved by "The Corporation of the City of New York" He most likely originally had a sandstone in the area where his family is buried.)*
PAULDING	Mary	Mar 23 1803	11m4d	Our Heavenly Father call'd her home ----Angels bliss to share And by Jehovah's blessing crown'd Nor needs a mothers care.
PAULDING	Sarah	Oct 23 1789	22y6m18d	Sarah Tidd the wife of John Paulding How vain to mourn the happy dead Who now to heavenly realms are fled; Repine no more your c'plaints forbear And all prepare to meet her there.
PENOYAR	???N *(possibly John)*	Sep 21 1770		Born Oct 6 1737 She that hath made----God Shall find a------ Shall walk all beneath his shade And there at night shall rest his head *(stone badly damaged)*

PRESHER	Wright	Oct 23 1790	1y1m4d	Son of William & Anna Presher
PURDY	Elias A.	Apr 2 1816	32y1m5d	Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord
SMITH	Philemon, Jr.	Dec 14 1814		Born Jan 20 1788
SPOCK	James	May 14 1804	64y	*(stone damaged)*
SPOCK	Mary	Feb 27 1803	58y	Wife of James Spock *(stone damaged)*
TAYLOR	Joseph	Jan 27 1782	77y	*(sunk)*
TAYLOR	Mary	Feb 15 1798	81y	Wife of Joseph Taylor *(stone sunk)*
TRAVIS	Elizabeth	Oct 11 1762	16y9m24d	Born Dec 18 1745 Daughter of Joseph Travis *(this grave also has large grave stone lying flat over the grave)*
TRAVIS	Stephen	Sep 12 1751	3y7m	
TURNER	John	Mar 27 1788	42y	
TURNER	Mary	Sep 2 1826	79y	Wife of John Turner
VOCT	Mary	Feb 22 1799	18y19d	Wife of John C. Voct. *(see above intro)* in Hillside Cemetery
VOCT	Mary C.			*(buried with mother, Mary, above) (see above intro) in Hillside Cemetery*
WARD	Caleb			*(wife Mary, face of stone destroyed)*
WARD	John			*(wife Mary, stone broken and gone)*
WARD	Mary	Sep 15 1765	60y	Wife of John Ward Eternity How Long *(stone down and broken in half)*
WARD	Mary	Feb 20 1801	70y	Born Apr 30 1731, wife of Caleb Ward